GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2819
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
SHORTFALL IN UTLIZATION OF PLAN FUNDS IN AGRICULTURAL MARKETING
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a continuous shortfall in utilization of plan funds in agricultural marketing during the entire Ninth Plan period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether four schemes for marketing division proposed to be implemented during the Ninth Plan have not yet been approved by the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the efforts being made to get these schemes cleared by the Planning Commission early?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): There was shortfall in utlisation of funds under ongoing schemes due to factors such as non-finalisation of purchase proposals for chemicals, apparatus and equipments of Agmark laboratories and non-receipt of utilisation certificates from State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. In addition to this, funds provided for new Schemes could not be utilised as these schemes were not approved.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e): The Planning Commission had not approved the four new schemes on the grounds that:

(i) since schemes on Agricultural Marketing had earlier been transferred to the States, there may not be sufficient reason for reviving them as new Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

(ii) since the process of convergence and weeding out of CSS was being pursued, it may be desirable to include the important aspects of the proposed schemes in the existing schemes itself.

The matter having been taken up again with the Planning Commission, the Planning Commission has now constituted a Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Planning Commission to consider the whole gamut of Agricultural marketing. The report of the Group is still awaited.